

were constitutionally different. *P. dubiosa* on the average is smaller than *P. pseudorapae*, but the hybrids are a little smaller than normal *dubiosa*. Some check to normal development was active and this could not be attributed to treatment with such an expert breeder as Mr. Bowden. Indeed, at the same time, he bred an extensive series of the second generation of the Italian race from the same stock he had used in the cross and the resulting specimens were of full size and normal in every respect. The Italian race could therefore not be *dubiosa*. As an hybrid species, however, if not *dubiosa* it must be *pseudorapae*, in spite of the western locality. The superficial characters of *pseudorapae*, its great size, in both generations; the strong, dark markings of the underside hindwing in the first generation, practically unmarked in the second, all accord exactly with the Italian race. Occasional specimens of *dubiosa* can attain an equal size in the second generation, but it is much smaller in the first in which the underside markings more resemble those of *P. napi* while the first generation of *pseudorapae* on the underside is suggestive of *P. bryoniae neobryoniae*. The second generation of *dubiosa* tends to be more marked on the underside and the black spots on the upper side are larger even in the females, and the discoidal spot on the upper side forewing in the male *dubiosa* is more constant: it is frequently wanting in *pseudorapae*.

All these facts prove that the southern Greek and central and southern Italian insects can only be *P. pseudorapae*, in spite of the distance they have spread to the west, and of the presence of *dubiosa* in the central Balkans. My previous idea that the extreme malformation existing in the scales of *pseudorapae* of the Constantinople area resulted on a cross between *dubiosa* and *pseudorapae* seems impossible and must be connected with some local disturbance.

The first result of this discovery is that the name *meridionalis* will have to replace *pseudorapae* Vty. The name *dubiosa* will still apply to the Spanish, Portuguese and Corsican hybrid insects. But it must be noted that "*meridionalis*" cannot be applied to any form of *P. napi* as it has been (incorrectly), in the past.

The distribution of the Palaearctic, hybrid species, is of considerable interest. They are completely absent from some islands in the Mediterranean yet present in others at no great distance. I have some reason for thinking that a mixed race *meridionalis* × *dubiosa* may exist in Sicily, but have only seen a very few specimens. A considerable series will be needed before one can establish the nature of the indigenous race with certainty.]

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EARLY APPEARANCES IN SOMERSET—On 20th January 1968, I was shown a specimen of *Eurrhynx hortulata* L. (small magpie moth) inside a bungalow near Weston-super-Mare. Possibly the larva had entered last autumn and its life cycle accelerated by the warmth indoors. One of the numerous house plants kept there may have aided this very early emergence.

Early dates at my light traps include 4 *Erannis marginaria* Fab. at Cheddar, 19.i.1968 and an *E. leucophaearia* Schiff. at Shipman, 21.i.1968.—TREVOR B. SILCOCKS, 3 Kenmeade Close, Shipham, near Winscombe, Somerset. 22.i.1968.